

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. By this amendment, Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-44 have been added. Hence, Claims 21-44 are pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0014399 A1 by Hansen et al. ("*Hansen*").

Claims 6-10 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansen* in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,363,373 B1- issued to Steinkraus ("*Steinkraus*").

THE REJECTIONS NOT BASED ON THE PRIOR ART

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 11-20 have been cancelled. Therefore the rejection is moot. However, new Claims 21-44 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that each of Claims 21-44 is directed towards statutory subject matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

THE REJECTIONS BASED ON THE PRIOR ART

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0014399 A1 by Hansen et al. ("*Hansen*"). Claims 1-5 and 11-15 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is moot. However, new Claims 21-44 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are patentable over the cited art of record. Consideration of the new claims in light of the response presented herewith is respectfully requested.

Further, Claims 6-10 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hansen* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,373 B1 to Steinkraus ("*Steinkraus*"). Similarly, Claims 6-10 and 16-20 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is also moot. Further, each of Claims 21-44 contains features not taught or suggested by either *Hansen* or *Steinkraus*. Therefore, the rejection of any claim under 103(a) cannot be sustained as to Claims 21-44.

CLAIM 21

New Independent Claim 21 features, among other things:

sorting queries into a plurality of subsets along a dimension, wherein the plurality of subsets includes a first subset and a second subset;

generating a first concept network for the first subset of queries;

generating a second concept network for the second subset of queries;

performing a comparison between the first concept network and the second concept network; and

generating trend information based on the comparison.

These limitations are not disclosed or in any way rendered obvious by the art of record.

DISCUSSION OF *HANSEN*

First, *Hansen* does not teach or suggest generating a first and second concept network for a first and second subset of queries, respectively. Instead, *Hansen* teaches grouping searches by session in order to determine a set of related queries and provide relevant results. However, nothing in *Hansen* includes generating a first and second concept networks from first and second query subsets. Groups or clusters as described in *Hansen* are really clusters within the same network hierarchy. Thus, separate concept networks are not created for separate query subsets. However, in Claim 21, the first and second concept networks are generated in distinct separation from each other. On the other hand, *Hansen* merely teaches creating search term groups from a single set of search queries, not separate concept networks from separate query subsets. Therefore, *Hansen* does not teach this feature of Claim 21.

Additionally, *Hansen* does not teach or suggest performing a comparison between a first concept network and a second concept network. Again, this is not possible because *Hansen* does not teach a first and second concept network. In *Hansen*, there is no indication that a first and second concept networks are developed separately. Further, nothing in *Hansen* indicates that separate concept networks are compared.

The Office Action alleges that “groups” of queries are formed based on the similarity of search sessions. However, the cited sections of *Hansen* do not teach or suggest that separate concept networks are created from the separate groups of queries. Instead, these groups are used to identify similar search terms. Instead, *Hansen* only compares submitted search terms to term groups in order to identify the most relevant group the submitted term should be a part of. After selecting the group, *Hansen* can aid users with relevant search results associated with the term group.

Thus, *Hansen* merely uses groups of search terms submitted in search sessions, finds the most relevant group for a search term and, using that group, returns results associated with that group. However, Claim 21 features generating trend information based on comparing first and second concept networks. Nothing in *Hansen* describes or suggests generating *trend information*, and nowhere in *Hansen* are first and second concept network compared to each other in order to generate the trend information. Therefore, *Hansen* does not teach or suggest this feature of Claim 21.

Because *Hansen* does not teach every feature of Claim 21, a rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) cannot be sustained. Therefore, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

DISCUSSION OF *STEINKRAUS*

Additionally, nothing in *Steinkraus* teaches or suggests features of Claim 21 that are missing from *Hansen*. Specifically, for example, *Steinkraus* does not teach comparing first and second concept networks and, based on the comparison, generating trend information. Therefore, a combination of *Steinkraus* and *Hansen* still fails to teach every feature of Claim 21. Therefore, a rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 cannot be sustained, and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

Each of Claims 22-32 are dependent on Claim 21 and contain each and every feature recited in Claim 21. Therefore, for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 21, each of Claims 22-32 is patentable over the cited art of record.

Further, Claims 33-44 recite features similar to those recited in Claim 21. Specifically, Claim 33 features a trend analysis module trend analysis module configured to cause the one or more processors to perform a comparison between the first concept

network and the second concept network, thereby generating trend information. As described with respect to Claim 21, neither *Hansen* nor *Steinkraus* teach this feature. Further, Claims 33-44 are dependent upon Claim 32, and feature every limitation of Claim 32. Therefore, Claims 33-44 are also patentable over the cited art of record for the same reasons discussed with respect to Claim 21.

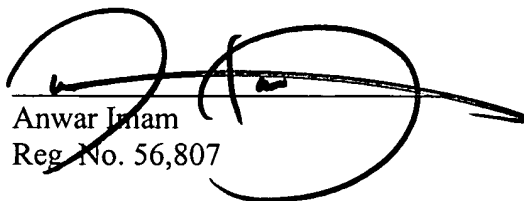
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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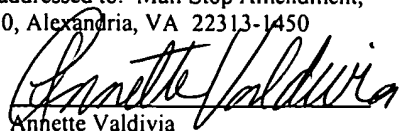
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